

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 264**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member ~~Cook~~ Members Cook and Lieu**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Jeffries, Niello, and Silva)**  
**(Coauthors: Senators Cogdill and Cox)**

February 11, 2009

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An act to add Section 6715 to the Government Code, relating to state observances.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 264, as amended, Cook. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Existing law requires the Governor to proclaim various days as holidays and days of remembrance.

This bill would ~~require the Governor to annually proclaim~~ *establish* March 30 *of each year* as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~ *no*. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. Section 6715 is added to the Government Code,  
2     to read:  
3     ~~6715. The Governor shall annually proclaim March 30 as~~  
4     ~~"Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."~~  
5     6715. March 30 of each year shall be "Welcome Home Vietnam  
6     Veterans Day."  
7     SEC. 2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the  
8     following:

1     (a) *In 2007, the United States Congress, by separate Senate and*  
2     *House Resolutions, declared that a Welcome Home Vietnam*  
3     *Veterans Day should be established.*

4     (b) *The Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975,*  
5     *and involved North Vietnam and Viet Cong in conflict with the*  
6     *United States and South Vietnam.*

7     (c) *The United States became involved in Vietnam because*  
8     *policymakers in the United States believed that if South Vietnam*  
9     *fell to a communist government, communism would spread*  
10    *throughout the rest of southeast Asia.*

11    (d) *Members of the United States Armed Forces began serving*  
12    *in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961.*

13    (e) *As a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and*  
14    *August 4, 1964, the United States overwhelmingly passed the Gulf*  
15    *of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 99-408), on August 7, 1964,*  
16    *which effectively handed over the war-making powers to President*  
17    *Johnson until such time as “peace and security” had returned to*  
18    *Vietnam.*

19    (f) *In 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam,*  
20    *and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached.*

21    (g) *On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which*  
22    *required the release of all United States prisoners of war held in*  
23    *North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed*  
24    *Forces from South Vietnam.*

25    (h) *On March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces*  
26    *completed the withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam.*

27    (i) *More than 58,000 members of the United State Armed Forces*  
28    *lost their lives in Vietnam and more than 300,000 were wounded.*

29    (j) *In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in*  
30    *the District of Columbia to commemorate those members of the*  
31    *United States Armed Forces who died or were declared missing*  
32    *in action in Vietnam.*

33    (k) *The Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among*  
34    *the people of the United States.*

35    (l) *Upon their return home, members of the United States Armed*  
36    *Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States*  
37    *during the Vietnam War were caught in the crossfire of public*  
38    *debate about the involvement of the United States in the war.*

39    (m) *The establishment of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans*  
40    *Day would be an appropriate way to honor those members of the*

- 1 *United States Armed Forces who served in Vietnam during the*
- 2 *Vietnam War.*

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